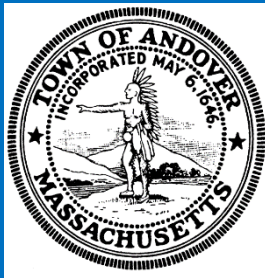


# Town of Andover Implementation of MA G.L. CHP 90, Section 17C



Select Board Presentation  
September 12, 2022

# Overview

At the 2022 Andover Annual Town Meeting, the meeting members passed an Article to allow the Town to opt-in to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C to reduce the statutory speed limit of local jurisdiction roadways in thickly settled or business districts from 30 miles per hour (mph) to 25 mph

# Overview

Thickly Settled is defined as:

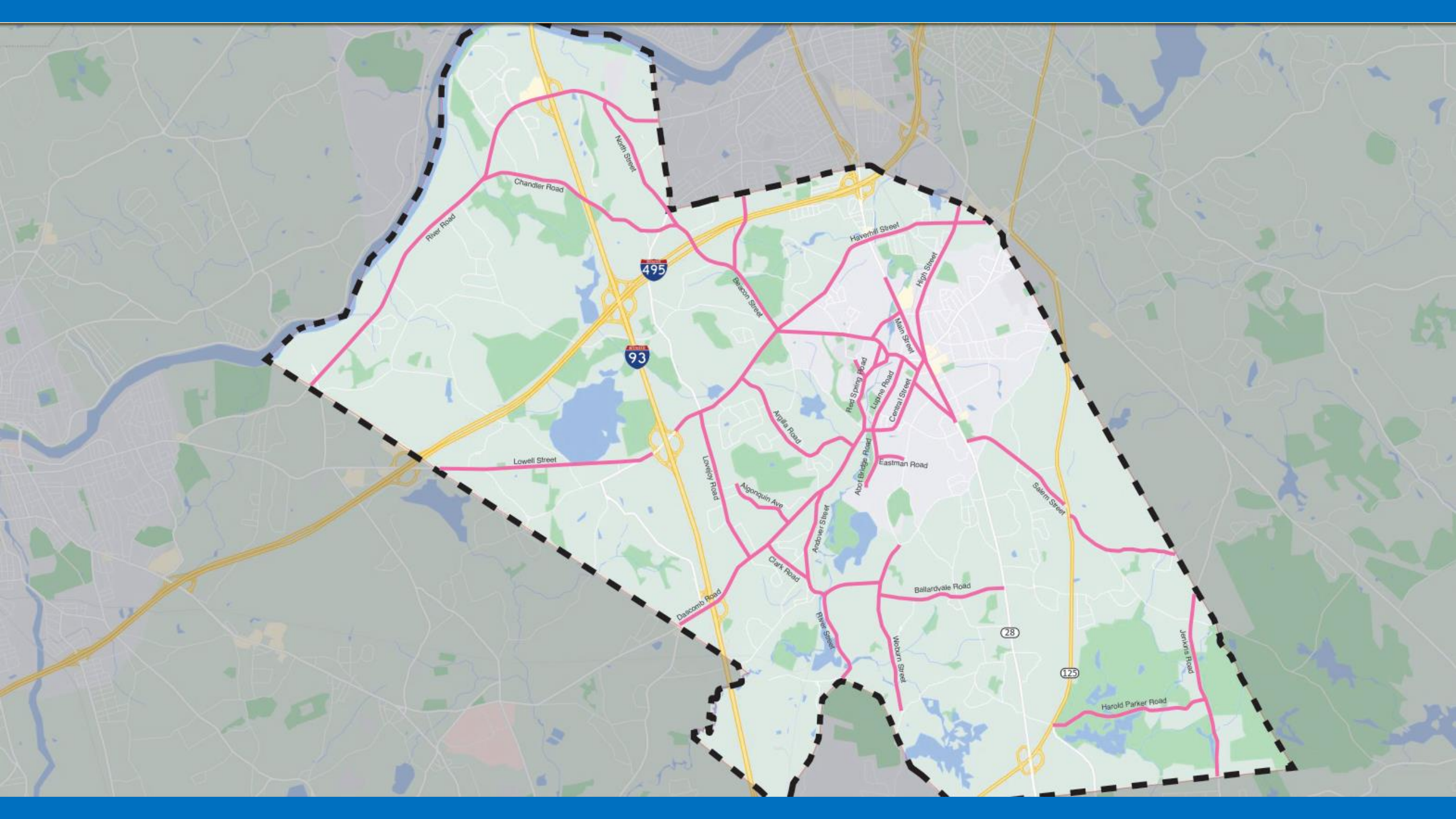
“The territory contiguous to any way which is built up with structures devoted to business, or the territory contiguous to any way where dwelling houses are situated at such distances as will average less than two hundred feet between them for a distance of a quarter of a mile or over”

A significant percentage of roadways in Andover meet this requirement;  
Downtown, Shawsheen Village and Ballardvale

# Overview

Statutory speed limits exist in the absence of special speed regulations on file with MassDOT. Between 1966 and 2005 Andover has established 19 special speed regulations governing 29 local-jurisdiction roadways

Where special speed regulations exist, that posted speed limit will always supersede a statutory speed limit, including thickly settled or business district



495

93

28

125

North Street

Chandler Road

River Road

Beacon Street

Haverhill Street

High Street

Main Street

West Spring Road

Ludlow Road

Central Street

Angela Road

Lowell Street

Lovelock Road

Algonquin Ave

Eastman Road

Abot Bridge Road

Andover Street

Clark Road

Dalton Road

Ballardvale Road

Western Street

Salem Street

Jenkins Road

Harold Parker Road

# Implementation Options – Town Wide Adoption

- 62 Towns and Cities have opted-in to Chapter 90 Section 17C.
- 54 communities adopted town wide
- MassDot and TEC Engineering Consultant recommends that municipalities opt-in on a town wide basis

## Advantages -

- Avoids Confusion for drivers
- Consistent and straightforward signage throughout the Town
- Allows the Town to post regulatory signs on local-jurisdiction roadways at Town boundaries
- Stays in conformance with National and MassDot directives
- Minimal Cost and Time

# Implementation Options- By Area and or Street

- 8 communities have adopted **Chapter 90 Section 17C** by area or street
- Comparable communities include Danvers and Billerica

## Advantages-

- Speed limit is more effective
- Allows the Town to be more thorough in decision making

# Next Steps

- Choose either town wide adoption or by area/street
- Once Opted-in to MGL Chapter 90, section 17c, the Town is required to notify MassDOT. The Town will send a copy of the approved change to the Andover Bylaws Appendix E, Traffic: Rules and Orders Regulating Traffic to the Regulations Engineer at MassDOT Highway Division Traffic and Safety Engineering